ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Directly operating on data structures in a generic manner regardless of the type of data structure being operated upon and without requiring dedicated executable code for manipulating data structures of the particular data type. A common set of commands (e.g., insert, delete, replace, update, query) are recognized that may be used to operate on data structures of a number of different data types. A navigation module accesses a request to execute one of the common command methods on at least an identified portion of an identified data structure. Then, the navigation module accesses a navigation assistance module to access a set of rules associated with the particular data type, the set of rules allowing the navigation module to find the portion of the data structure that is to be operated on. If appropriate, the command operation is then executed on the identified portion of the data structure.

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Docket No. 13768.198.3